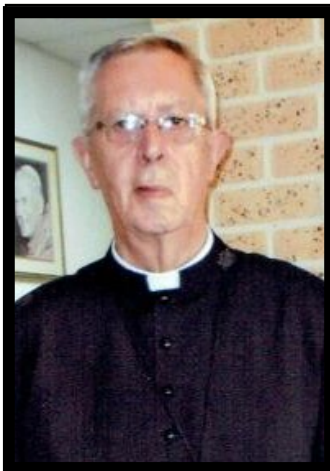




WORLD DAY For CONSECRATED LIFE

Pray for our Mary Queen Religious Brothers and Sisters



I was born in Fall River, Massachusetts on October 13, 1938, the second oldest of four children.

I entered the La Salette community on November 23, 1957 and professed my first vows on October 7, 1960. In these past 58 years of service, I served in many ministries including: Sacristan, Master of Ceremonies, music director, treasurer, secretary, cook and others. In September 1988, I was assigned to the General House in Rome, Italy as the Assistant General Secretary. In 2000, I returned to the US for an assignment at the Mission Center in Hartford, CT and then served in Saint Louis, MO. In September 2010, I retired here in Friendswood, Texas.

I am a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and the Spiritual Director of Mary Queen Council 8494. I am also Friar for the Fourth Degree Assembly 2084. I serve as the chairperson of the Respect Life Ministry for the Knights of Columbus and for Mary Queen Parish. I also lead the Monday evening prayer group.



Missionaries of
Our Lady of La Salette



I was a parishioner of Mary Queen with my family until I entered with the Community of Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal (CFRs) September 2017. I am now a novice in our community and am deeply grateful for the part that Mary Queen played in my discernment.

I first felt the call to religious life at World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain where I encountered religious sisters for the first time. There, during Eucharistic Adoration one night, I saw a sister praying before the Blessed Sacrament and God gave me a great grace. In that moment, I knew that Jesus was “all hers”, and she was “all His”, and how that must fill her and each sister with such joy, fulfillment, and peace! My immediate response was, “I want that too!” I realized that I deeply desired to give all of myself to Jesus, to the God who created and loved me, and that religious life was a beautiful way to do that. I came home and went off to college at the University of Dallas, where I started attending daily Mass and Adoration. I spent those four years learning more about the Lord and our faith and the more I learned, the more I loved. While I was there, a sister encouraged me to move beyond talking about discerning and to “do something” about this call in my heart. Several people had recommended our community to me, so I visited and immediately felt like the sisters were

family; I was so excited that I kept mom up until 3 am talking about the community once I came home! That first visit was followed by several more over the next few years as I continued to pray, asking “Who are You, Lord? Who did You make me to be? How are You calling me to Yourself?” As time passed, God clarified His invitation in my heart, and so with great peace I was able to give my joyful “yes” to Him!

Many of those hours of prayer were spent in the chapel at Mary Queen, and I was always edified and encouraged when my fellow parishioners would pray for vocations at daily Mass. Please keep praying for me and for all young people who are discerning, and be assured of my prayers for you.

In Jesus and Mary,
Sr. Joanna Therese Sokora, CFR Novice

*Community of
Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal*



Sr. Gabriella Cotter, OP

I am originally from Friendswood Tx. Growing up I lived with my mom, dad, brother and sister. I was baptized Catholic and though I did go to Mass as a young child, as I grew older, going to Mass become secondary to everything in my “busy” life. I was very involved in classical ballet. In fact, when I was 9 years old I was selected to audition for a Vaganova “Russian method” ballet program. One month later I found myself training a minimum of 3 hours a day and 6 hours or more on the weekend to attain my goal of become a professional ballet dancer. Ballet became my life, so naturally going to Mass on Sunday was no longer a priority. For the next five years, I was merely Catholic by name. It was not until I was a freshman in high school when I discovered Eucharistic Adoration for the first time. I had been invited to go on a youth retreat with my church. It was in that holy hour that I discovered the True Presence of our Lord. I was filled with an inner peace and I fell in love with Jesus. Over the next few years, my love for the Eucharist continued to grow as I grew in my knowledge of the Faith.

When I was a senior in high school I met religious Sisters for the first time at a Life Teen camp in Georgia. The priest who introduced the Sisters to me said they were “Brides of Christ.” When I looked at these young Sisters, I saw a joy and love that I wanted!

As I went off to college, the Lord had wonderful plans in store for me as the Dominican Sisters of Mary lived in a Mission Convent just 30 minutes from where I was studying at Texas State University. As a student I prayed with these Sisters, learned more about their lives and realized that God was asking me to give my life to Him in this same radical yet beautiful way. I visited the Motherhouse in May of 2012 and entered 3 months later. Ten years ago I could never have seen myself giving up ballet. However, over the years I have come to see that what I was attracted to in ballet was *beauty*, so when I discovered the eternal *Goodness, Beauty and Truth* of the Catholic Church giving up ballet was nothing in comparison. In the end I have realized, this is what I was made for; I belong to Him.



Sr. Kate McFall, DC

I am a Seminary Sister (novice) with the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. My family has always been Catholic and gone to Mass, but when we started attending Mary Queen when I was a freshman in high school, my faith started to become my own! Life Teen, Theology of the Body, XLT, and small group sharing made my faith come alive. I went to lots of summer retreats, and on a service trip one summer, I first became truly passionate about service to others. After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, I helped with Edge and was on the Confirmation team. I went to the University of Dallas, majoring in elementary education, and continued helping with retreats and being involved in campus ministry. After college, I moved to Memphis to serve in the LANCE program with the Christian Brothers and earned my Masters of Education. In Memphis I allowed myself to discern the call God had placed in my heart all those years ago. After several years of discerning (praying, reading, spending time with sisters, talking to a spiritual director, and of course stalking their social media) I entered formation with the Daughters of Charity. I am currently in Saint Louis studying theology and community history. We were founded by St. Vincent de Paul (yes, like the thrift store) and our mission is service to the poor and vulnerable. Here in the United States,

that is often as teachers, nurses, and social workers. However, we have over 14,000 sisters around the world living out this mission in different ways! My advice to anyone starting to discern their vocation is to take silent time to pray and journal. When you want to look at communities, Instagram is a great place to start! A lot of communities and individual priests and religious have accounts, and many have a community hash tag you can search by (our is #iamdoc1633).

Blessings,
Sr. Kate McFall, DC

